

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)

A swimming aid ~~including~~ comprising:
a body portion;
locating means for the foot of ~~the~~ a user located on top of said body portion;
a flexible web extending laterally from said body portion; and
at least two segmented ribs disposed on said flexible web and extending laterally from said body portion towards the edge of said flexible web, the segments of each ~~of~~ said ~~rib~~ ribs cooperating to stiffen said flexible web against flexion substantially above the plane of said body portion.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein ~~the~~ said locating means fully encloses the user's foot.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein ~~the~~ said locating means is partially open at one or both of the toes and heel of the user's foot.

Claim 5 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said flexible web comprises a ball region, a heel region and an intermediate region of lesser lateral extent than said ball and heel regions.

Claim 6 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ said ball region is of greater lateral extent than said heel region.

Claim 7 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, additionally including comprising tuning webs disposed at one or both of ~~the~~ a toe region or an arch region of ~~the~~ said body portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 7, ~~wherein the said flexible web is composed of a material selected from the group including natural or synthetic rubber, leather or polymer material~~ wherein the said tuning webs disposed at one or both a toe region or an arch region include a segmented rib disposed thereon.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 or claim 7, wherein at least one of said flexible web and said tuning webs are is formed integrally with said locating means and said body portion.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 or claim 9~~ claim 1, wherein the said at least two segmented ribs extend both laterally and divergently from ~~the~~ said body portion.

Claim 11 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, claim 8, or claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said ribs are segmented by cuts or excisions and are hingedly interconnected by the material of the web.

U.S. Pat. No.: Not yet assigned
PCT Appl. No.: PCT/AU2003/001086
Docket No.: DB001173-000
Prel. Amdt. Dated: 25 February 2005

Claim 12 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, claim 8, or claim 10, wherein ~~the said ribs are composed of~~ include individual segments linked via a flexible linking means.

Claim 13 (original)

The swimming aid according to claim 12, wherein the linking means is in each case a hinge.

Claim 14 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, claim 8 or claim 10, wherein said individual segments block together to provide said stiffening of the web.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (new)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said locating means and/or said flexible web are/is comprised of a material selected from the group including natural or synthetic rubber, leather or polymer material.